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**ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT**



Health Report  
1958





# Members of the Council

(1958-1959)

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## **Chairman:**

W. J. B. BERTRAND J.P.

## **Vice-Chairman:**

R. A. ATKINSON

## **Members:**

A. ARMSTRONG J.P.

W. E. BONNETT

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G. S. P. SALMON

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G. M. TAYLOR

G. WILKINS

## **Medical Officer of Health:**

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

## **Senior Public Health Inspector:**

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

## **Additional Public Health Inspectors:**

G. E. MALE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

L. A. PICKTHALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

## **Clerks:**

E. P. MOLYNEUX

Mrs. M. S. J. KEMP

## **Public Health Department:**

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Borehamwood

Telephone — ELStree 2491



# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Elstree Rural District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my 18th Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1958.

## VITAL STATISTICS

These are given overleaf. The only point to which I would draw attention is the Death Rate. The total number of deaths during the year was 309 including 215 occurring at Shenley Hospital. It will be seen that, as in previous years, a separate "local" rate has been computed for the purpose of comparison by excluding the hospital patients, which gives us a figure slightly below those of the County and Country as a whole.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There have been no epidemics of serious significance and our Immunisation Clinics for Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis continue to be well attended.

## TUBERCULOSIS

There were 18 new cases during the year, compared with 18, 13, 15, 15 and 16 respectively in the years 1957 to 1953 inclusive. These figures do not include cases reported from Shenley Hospital.

## SLUM CLEARANCE

During the year, five unfit houses were demolished and six unfit houses were closed as a result of action taken under the Housing Acts. One unfit house capable of repair was purchased by the Council and will be completely renovated and modernised before re-letting.

## DEAF AID BATTERIES

There are many persons residing in the area who benefit from the use of hearing aids supplied by the National Health Service. In order to obtain replacement batteries, which are required at regular intervals, these persons had to travel to Barnet General Hospital, a journey of four miles or more which was inconvenient and costly. With the co-operation of the hospital and the National Health Service, arrangements have now been made for replacement batteries to be issued from the Public Health Department.

## GENERAL

It gives me great pleasure to express my thanks to the Council for their support during the year and to the Public Health Inspectors and officials generally for their willing help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# SECTION A

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### OF THE AREA

Area .. .. .	8,339 acres
Population, 1931 Census*	5,946
Population, 1951 Census .. .. .	14,757
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1958 .. .. .	27,470
No. of inhabited houses (end Elstree ..	6,601
of 1958) according to Rate Shenley ..	461
Books .. .. . Ridge ..	73
Rateable Value (1st April, 1959) .. .. .	£575,035
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1959) ..	£2,005
* Adjusted in respect of alteration of boundary in 1935.	

#### VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births .. .. .	479	225	254
Live birth rate per 1,000 population ..	17.4		
Still-births .. .. .	5	2	3
Still-births rate per 1,000 <i>live and still-births</i>	10.3		
Total <i>live and still-births</i> .. .. .	484	227	257
Infant deaths .. .. .	13	6	7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 <i>live births</i> ..	27.1		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 <i>live births</i> — <i>legitimate</i> * .. .. .	28.0		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 <i>live births</i> — <i>illegitimate</i> † .. .. .	Nil		
Neo Natal mortality rate per 1,000 <i>live births</i> ( <i>first four weeks</i> ) .. .. .	16.7		
Illegitimate live births per cent of total <i>live</i> <i>births</i> .. .. .	3.1		
Maternal deaths ( <i>including abortion</i> ) ..	Nil		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 <i>live and</i> <i>still-births</i> .. .. .	Nil		

\* Legitimate I.M.R. =  $\frac{\text{Legitimate deaths under 1 year}}{\text{Legitimate live births}}$

† Illegitimate I.M.R. =  $\frac{\text{Illegitimate deaths under 1 year}}{\text{Illegitimate live births}}$

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths (all causes) .. .. .	309	130	179
Death Rate: 11.2 per 1,000 <i>estimated</i> <i>average population</i> .			
"Local" Death Rate excl. Shenley Hos- pital: 3.7 per 1,000 population.			

The Comparability Factor (furnished by the Registrar-General to correct anomalies in age and sex distribution, compared with the country as a whole) is given as 0.90 for births and 0.84 for deaths. The following table shows how the local birth and death rates compare with those given for Hertfordshire and for the whole country.

			Elstree R.D.C.	County of Hertford	England & Wales
Birth Rate	..	..	15.7*	16.6	16.4
Death Rate	..	..	9.4*	10.3	11.7

\* Actual rate  $\times$  Comparability Factor to give Standardised rate.

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

One part-time Medical Officer of Health.

One Senior and two additional Public Health Inspectors.

All whole-time, all qualified Public Health Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors.

The General Purposes and Finance Committee deal with all matters relating to Public Health. They meet on the second Monday in each month and receive the reports of the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector.

#### 2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

#### (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the Coppetts Wood Isolation Hospital, Muswell Hill. The ambulance for non-infectious cases provided by the Herts County Council is stationed at the Fire Station, Elstree Way, and is manned by the Herts Ambulance Brigade staff. If this service is not available, ambulances are on call from a pool controlled by the West Herts Divisional Control, St. Albans.

#### (c) NURSING IN THE HOME

The Borehamwood area has six whole-time Health Visitors, three District Nurses employed on general nursing, three midwives and one nurse employed part-time on general nursing.

## (d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

- (i) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic,  
Elstree Way,  
Borehamwood.

Ante-Natal:  
Monday and Wednesday at 2 p.m.  
Infant Welfare:  
Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m.  
Family Planning:  
Fridays 2.15 to 3.15 p.m.  
Speech Therapy:  
Thursdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
2 to 4 p.m.

Ophthalmic:  
Wednesdays 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Orthoptic:  
Monday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
2 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough  
Immunisation:  
Fridays 10 to 11 a.m.

School Dental Clinic:  
(Treatment by appointment only.)  
Monday to Friday (except Wednesday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 to 4 p.m. Alternate Saturday mornings.

- (ii) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic,  
Health Annexe,  
Greenacres School,  
Borehamwood.

Ante-Natal:  
Monday and Thursday 2 to 4 p.m.  
Infant Welfare:  
Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Speech Therapy:  
Wednesday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
2 to 4 p.m.

School Dental Clinic:  
(Treatment by appointment only.)  
Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
2 to 4 p.m.

Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

- (iii) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic,  
Health Annexe,  
Saffron Green School,  
Borehamwood.

Infant Welfare:  
Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m.  
School Dental Clinic:  
(Treatment by appointment only.)  
Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

## (e) HOSPITALS

The Rural District of Elstree is covered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Individual hospitals are managed by Hospital Management Committee Groups.



*Barnet Group (No. 5) Hospital Management Committee*

Barnet General Hospital

General Hospital with complement of 461 beds, with the usual medical and surgical facilities. Regular consultative clinics are as follows:

Ante-Natal	Orthopaedic
Dental	Paediatric
Dermatological	Physical medicine
Chiropody	Post-Natal
Ear, nose and throat	Psychiatric
Geriatric	Radiotherapy
Gynaecological	Sub-Fertility
Medical	(Males)
Neurology	Surgical
Ophthalmic	Tuberculosis

St. Stephens Hospital  
(Formerly Barnet Isolation Hospital.)

Small general hospital with complement of 88 beds.

Victoria Hospital,  
Wood Street, Barnet.

Maternity Hospital with complement of 48 Maternity beds and 48 cots.

Clare Hall Hospital,  
South Mimms.

Chest Hospital with complement of 452 beds.

Elmbank Hospital,  
Arkley.

Female Geriatric unit with complement of 27 beds.

*Mid Herts Group (No. 7) Hospital Management Committee*Child Guidance Clinic,  
Hill End, St. Albans.

Child Guidance service:

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(Patients seen by appointment only.)St. Albans City Hospital,  
Osterhills Unit,  
Normandy Road, St. Albans

Venereal Diseases:

Attendances

Females:

Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

Fridays 2 to 4 p.m.

Males:

Fridays 10 to 12 noon.

St. Albans City Hospital,  
Mid Herts Wing,  
Church Crescent,  
St. Albans.

Venereal Diseases:

Attendances

Males:

Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

*West Herts Group (No. 9) Hospital Management Committee*Bushey and District Hospital,  
Bushey.

General Hospital with complement of 39 beds.

*Northern Group (No. 20) Hospital Management Committee*Coppetts Wood Hospital,  
London, N.20.  
(Telephone: TUDor 9792).All cases of Infectious Diseases  
(excluding Smallpox) are taken to  
this hospital. Bed complement 144.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER

The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 42/51 of the Ministry of Health.

1. The water supply was maintained during 1958 at a satisfactory standard in (a) quality and (b) quantity.
2. The Colne Valley Water Company are the suppliers and have provided the following information with regard to the sampling of the water supplies during the year:—  
 455 samples of raw water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were variable.  
 2,351 samples of supply water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were very satisfactory.  
 263 samples of raw water were examined chemically. The results were variable.  
 504 samples of supply water were examined chemically. The results were very satisfactory.
3. The water is not likely to be plumbo-solvent.
4. Of the 7,135 houses in the district:—  
 (a) 7,131 are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house.  
 (b) 3 by means of standpipes (Ridge Parish).  
 (c) 1 isolated house has no piped water supply.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS

A few cases of minor pollution of streams were investigated. Several ponds were treated with D.D.T. Insecticide as a precaution against the breeding of mosquitoes.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of about 35 pail closets at out-lying farms and farm cottages, all the dwelling houses in the district are served by water-closets; these, with the exception of a few which discharge into private sewage disposal systems, are connected to public sewers.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping on the site of the disused sewage works at Medburn Farm, Elstree and at Moor Mills, Park Street, Nr. St. Albans.

## SHOPS AND OFFICES

Normal routine inspections were carried out at these premises during the year, no statutory action was taken.

## CARAVAN SITES

- (a) The number of sites in the area in use during 1958 was three. All are licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
- (b) 6 annual licences authorising individual applicants to station and use moveable dwellings were issued during the year.
- (c) Estimated maximum number of caravans stationed in the area at one time including holders of individual licences, 120. This would give a total population living in caravans in the district of approximately 320.

## CLEAN AIR

The Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air and is a constituent member of the London and Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Council; the Public Health Inspector represents the Hertfordshire Local Authorities on the Executive Committee of the Advisory Council.

During the year the Council decided to declare its first Smoke Control Area of 260 acres in the South-eastern part of the district. The area contains 1,400 dwellings, 40 factories, 2 schools and other buildings of miscellaneous types.

## RODENT CONTROL

One Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work under the supervision of the Additional Public Health Inspectors. During the year, investigation was carried out at 198 properties for the purposes of rodent control; of these, 106 were found to be infested with rats and 43 infested with mice. These were subsequently treated by the local authority.

The Council operate a free service for domestic premises but a charge is made for rodent control treatment carried out to business and other premises.

## HOUSING ACTS 1949-1954 AND HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958

### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year, 9 applications were received for grants toward the improvement of houses in the district. Of these, 7 applications were approved.

The total amount of the grants made was £2,260.

## SECTION D

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tables give the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever .. ..	13	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	1	1	—
Erysipelas .. ..	1	1	—
Measles .. ..	567	—	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	7	—	—
Pneumonia .. ..	1	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	25	—	—
Poliomyelitis .. ..	—	—	—
Food Poisoning .. ..	11	—	—

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 & over	Age unknown	Totals
Scarlet Fever ..					1	10	2				13
Diphtheria ..								1			1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..									1		1
Erysipelas ..											1
Measles ..	12	44	61	81	77	285	7				567
Whooping Cough ..		2	1	1	1	1	1				7
Pneumonia ..									1		1
Dysentery ..	1	2	5			8	1		8		25
Poliomyelitis ..											—
Food Poisoning ..					4		4		3		11

#### **Tuberculosis—New cases and mortality during 1958.**

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 ..		1						
5—14 ..	1							
15—24 ..		3						
25—44 ..	3	3		2	1			
45—65 ..	3							
65 & over ..	1	1				1		
Age unknown								
* TOTALS	8	8	—	2	1	1	—	—

\* Not including patients resident in Shenley Hospital,

## Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Elstree Rural District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my 20th Annual Report for the year 1958.

During the year, you gave your approval to Smoke Control Area No. 1 comprising approximately 1,400 houses and 40 factories between Manor Way and Barnet By-Pass. It is hoped that Elstree's first Smoke Control Order, to which the Minister has already given informal approval, will come into operation during 1960.

A noteworthy improvement carried out during the year was the extension of the sewer from the top of Potters Lane to Wheatsheaf Farm. The Council made a contribution towards the cost of this work which was carried out by the County Council.

My thanks are due to the Council for their unfailing support during the year and to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL

*Public Health Inspector.*

## INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

A total of 2,451 visits and inspections were made during the year to all types of premises. 337 inspections of food-preparing establishments were carried out.

102 Informal Notices were served during the year requiring the repair or remedy of defects.

### Statutory Notices

Nature of defects	Statute	No. of Notices served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
Nuisances    ..    ..	Section 93 Public Health Act, 1936	3	3
Disrepair    ..    ..	Section 9 Housing Act, 1936	3	3

# ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	19	—	8	49	343	—
Number inspected ..	19	—	8	49	343	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</b>						
Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	—	—	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	1	—	—	—	10	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .. ..	5.3	—	—	—	3.8	—
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>						
Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	7	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	2.0	—
<b>Cysticercosis:</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

### Milk and Dairies Regulations

There are seven purveyors retailing milk throughout the district and the following table gives details of milk licences issued. The Rural District of Elstree is included in the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1951 which requires that all milk sold in this area is of a special designation viz. Pasteurised, Sterilised, or Tuberculin Tested.

No. of Licences issued	Sterilised	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Total
Dealers' Licences ..	13	10	7	30
Supplementary Licences	3	3	2	8

The following table gives particulars of samples taken during the year from purveyors within the district. All samples satisfied the prescribed tests as required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Total No. of Samples	Tuberculin Tested	Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	Pasteurised	Sterilised
26	—	6	20	—

### FOOD PREMISES

There are 188 premises in the district where food is prepared for sale, or sold, or offered or exposed for sale to the public; 337 inspections were made in enforcing the provisions of various legislation at present in force, including the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/56.

The following table gives a summary of the types of food premises in the area.

General provision shops	32	Meat shops .. ..	15
Confectioners (Sweets etc.)	19	Greengrocers .. ..	17
Confectioners (Bakers) ..	8	Fishmongers .. ..	5
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	Bakehouses .. ..	4
Cafes and Restaurants ..	10	Factory Canteens ..	23
Building Site Canteens ..	2	School Canteens ..	18
Licensed Premises ..	20	Stalls .. ..	2
Chemists .. ..	6	Off Licences .. ..	6



## ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947 to 1951

Under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, there is only one registration in the district of premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, and 42 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

12 samples were taken during the year of which 4 were from vendors trading ice-cream manufactured outside the district and the remainder from the manufacturer within the district. The results of the bacteriological examinations are as follows:—

Results			
Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
12	—	—	—

Provisional Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, Grades 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.  
It will be seen that 100 per cent of samples fall into Grades 1 and 2.

## REGISTRATIONS—SECTION 16, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

### Ice Cream

<i>Type of Premises</i>		<i>Number Registered</i>
Confectioners	Manufacture of Ice Cream	1
Confectioners	Sale and Storage only	29
Provision shops	Sale and Storage only	13

### Preserved Foods etc.

Butchers' shops	Manufacture of Sausages	12
Butchers' shops	Preserving food	3
Fishmongers	Fish-frying	4

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1958**

**Part 1 of the Act**

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	9	9	2	—
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	81	81	5	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	4	3	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .	94	93	7	—

## Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. ..	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. ..	3	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	7	7	—	1	—

*Outworkers:* Number of outworkers in district during the year was 58.

*Nature of Work:* Making of wearing apparel, making of boxes.

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE

In addition to general legislation automatically applicable to the district, the following are in force:—

### STATUTES

Public Health Act, 1875	Section 154	10.3.1926
Public Health Act, 1875	Section 26	18.7.1928
Public Health Act, 1875	Section 160 (2)	13.12.1926
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890.	Part III	
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923		
Public Health Act, 1925	Sections 13-21, 23-34	13.12.1926
Public Health Act, 1936:—		
Urban powers in respect of Sections 41 (Elstree Parish), 46, 79 and 80 (Elstree Parish), 107, 108, 263, 264, 269.		

### BYELAWS

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures	6.12.1920
Houses let in lodgings	14.7.1923
Slaughterhouses	20.4.1926
Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools	1.6.1937
New Streets	1.4.1939
Building	29.7.1939
Fish Frying and Offensive Trades	1.9.1950
Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food	26.6.1950
Fouling of Footway by Dogs	1.6.1951